

The elements of the subconscious possess quasi-independent wills of their own. In many cases elements of the subconscious mind possess a measure of free will equal to that of the human ego. In both cases, be it ego or spirit, free will is possessed, but this free will is often influenced by other portions of the mind. In a very real and somewhat disconcerting sense spirits are as real as we are ourselves.

Being a landscape populated by quasi-independent entities, the subconscious mind is often the site of power struggles between spirits (unified self-directed and sometimes self-aware portions of the subconscious). While the ego goes about its business considering and manipulating the objective universe spirits go about their business attempting to manipulate and influence the subjective universe. Memories, thoughts, and ideas do battle and the losers are subdued, incorporated, transformed, or destroyed by the winners. Complex memetic structures take on a life of their own once inside the subconscious. They can grow and change in power and influence, subduing or being quelled by other forces within our minds. All of this occurs without our conscious knowledge. A simple memory absorbed in our childhood might grow to become a dominant force of our personality, its form so irrevocably altered through time as to be wholly unrecognizable in the present day.

Subconscious Mind as the Portal to the Astral-Daemonic Planes

The portal to the astral planes resides somewhere within the depths of the subconscious psyche. Occultists speak of many levels, or planes, of existence. The material plane is at the bottom of the spiritual planar hierarchy (though in most traditions there are lower planes than the material, such as Hades). In Gnostic and Hermetic traditions the material plane is the end result of a long spiritual filtering process. Physical objects are the solidified remains of once pure spiritual energy. The astral plane is the next plane of existence above the physical plane. The astral plane is the home of potential reality. Thoughts assume

dreamlike form on the astral plane, some small portion of which eventually filter down to affect and form material reality.

The astral plane is home to many varieties of entity, including elementals, daemons, spirits, and thought forms (complex memetic structures). These denizens of the astral plane are able to change form at will, effecting transformations in the dreamlike fabric of the astral plane by thought alone.

Skilled magicians are able to fashion physical reality before it occurs by manipulating the fabric of the astral plane, thereby assuring the images created on the astral plane will filter down to materialize on the material plane.

The line between the subconscious mind of an individual and the astral plane is blurred. It may in fact be the case that most, or the entire mental framework of the subconscious mind resides within the astral plane.

Both esoteric philosophy and Jungian scientific research assert that the collective unconscious (that portion of our subconscious mental structure which is inherited by all humans at birth, and which forms the foundation, or building blocks, of the mind itself) of the human species resides within the astral plane. Though Jungians would not claim that the collective unconscious resided within the astral plane, they would assert that it resided within the subconscious mind. If the reader accepts the proposition that the gateway to the astral plane resides within the human subconscious mind, then the differences between scientific theory and occult philosophy become one of terminology only. All conscious minds, human and animal, are connected at the subconscious level.

So, in summary, access to the subconscious mind of any human being would allow access to the astral plane. Access to the astral plane would allow access to the collective unconscious. Access to the collective unconscious would allow access to the collected knowledge of the human race and its non-human ancestors.

Therefore, any system which serves as a mechanism for drawing blueprints of the human subconscious psyche has the potential to unlock the